



Shining From Sea to Sea

Regent Seven Seas Cruises delivers its third, most luxurious ship yet.

BY ANDREW SESSA

When a cruise company christens its new vessel “The Most Luxurious Cruise Ship Ever Built,” and then trademarks that tagline, they must mean business. When they follow up that first ship with two more modeled on the original—selling out voyage after voyage along the way—they mean *very* big business. That’s what **Regent Seven Seas Cruises** (rssc.com) has done over the past few years, offering a proof of concept with *Seven Seas Explorer* in 2016; then *Splendor*, which came with the moniker “Luxury Perfected,” in 2020; and now *Grandeur*, whose “Heritage of Perfection” reputation includes the display of a pearl-encrusted Fabergé egg (shown at top), made exclusively for the vessel and the only such piece at sea.

Much of these ships’—and Regent’s—appeal comes from their impeccable design, which manages to blend the best of the past and present, combining tried and true tropes of high luxury (thousands of crystals used to create scores of chandeliers, tons of richly grained marble) even as it reinvents them in surprisingly contemporary, innovative ways.

Grandeur represents a new high mark in this carefully curated mix. To sail on the *Grandeur* is to have a new appreciation for what luxury can look like on the high seas today. Spoiler: It manages to be almost indistinguishable from the best of what it

looks like on land—and that’s no easy feat.

The intimate, 372-suite, 744-guest ship owes its aesthetic success to the team at the South Florida-based firm Studio Dado, which, having previously worked on aspects of *Explorer* and *Splendor*, took the helm exclusively here, designing *Grandeur*’s interiors from prow to stern.

“As the sole architects, we could weave together the continuity of the story that we wanted to tell about this idea of the pinnacle of luxury,” says Dado Founding Partner Yohandel Ruiz. “We had a big responsibility to leave a lasting impression.”

They lived up to that responsibility, and then some. Passengers enjoy an entirely seamless, and utterly impressive, aesthetic experience across the ship’s 10 decks, even as the diversity of its decor allows passengers to travel across time and around the globe—all without even setting foot ashore. Just dining among *Grandeur*’s eight restaurants can take you from a haute bistro in Coco Chanel’s Paris, complete with chandeliers inspired by a citrine brooch from one of the maison’s early jewelry collections, to a classic, mid-20th-century New York steakhouse, whose leather and wine-colored interiors almost make you feel like you’re smelling cigars and listening to power brokers negotiate deals while you bite into your perfectly charred, medium-rare rib eye. The geometric tiles of the Mediterranean restaurant bring you to Gio Ponti’s Amalfi

Coast, and the largest dining room becomes a twinkling Shangri-la at night, when its windows light up with constellations of LEDs.

The grand observation lounge, meanwhile, which borrows from Manhattan’s Art Deco Rainbow Room at the top of Rockefeller Center, features a one-of-a-kind, gravity-defying chandelier whose waves of crystal mesh wash across an expansive ceiling. And a hidden gem of a tucked-away library rivals any cosmopolitan art bookstore in the world.

As for the art onboard, in addition to that Fabergé egg, *Grandeur* displays some 1,600 works, all curated by Regent’s art director, Sarah Hall Smith, who has been creating private art collections for 30 years. Among the most impressive pieces aboard are works by Robert Rauschenberg and Roberto Matta, plus several by Pablo Picasso. Says Ruiz, the entire Regent Suite—the ship’s largest accommodation—takes inspiration from the pied-à-terre of a worldly art collector.

While the 4,400-square-foot Regent Suite is an outlier, even the smallest cabins measure in at a minimum 307 square feet. And like all the suites, they include creature comforts such as suede-lined drawers. Dado was in charge of the big picture and the understanding that the minutiae matter too. “Luxury is beyond the glittering surfaces,” says Ruiz. “It’s about creating a sense of comfort and an experience that feels tailored to the individual. It should not feel just like home, but even better.” ♦

